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**VAN MELLE USA's MANUFACTURING FACILITY INSTALLS SIEMENS SOLAR
SYSTEM IN HUGE ROOFTOP ARRAY
50 Kilowatt System Using 714 Solar Modules Exemplifies Dedication to Innovative
Environmental Policy**

ERLANGER, Kentucky, December 6, 1999 – Van Melle, a global producer of confectionery products, has just installed a large solar array that will feed into the electrical system that serves its US manufacturing facility in Erlanger, Ky. The solar system comprising 714 modules from Siemens Solar Industries is part of a global corporate commitment: a basic tenet of the company's mission is to be "dedicated to reduce the impact on the environment to a sustainable level."

"This is actually our third rooftop system from Siemens Solar. We've already installed similar systems in Holland and China," explained David Reed, Environmental and Safety Coordinator, Van Melle USA. "Van Melle has a keen awareness of the environment. We are very proud of our accomplishments and our commitment toward the future of our environment."

Siemens Solar worked with Utility Power Group of Woodland Hills, Calif., to install the rooftop array. The project was completed November 20th and is generating 44 kW at peak hours, which is then going into the system serving the manufacturing facility and office.

The 120,000 square-foot facility is the third Van Melle manufacturing facility to be powered by solar; others are in Holland and China. The office expansion, built two years prior, already has skylights and light monitors to increase natural lighting as well as a solar thermal system that provides hot water to the office building. Future plans include a wind turbine to be completed in 2000 as an addition to the present renewable energy source.

About Siemens Solar

Siemens Solar comprises Siemens Solar GmbH in Munich, a joint venture of Siemens AG and Bayernwerk AG, Siemens Solar Industries L.P. in Camarillo (Calif.) and two Joint Ventures: Siemens Showa Solar Ltd., Singapore, and Showa Solar Energy KK, Tokyo. Siemens Solar has to date supplied over 150 MW throughout the world, making it the leading company in the photovoltaics industry. The company's web site is www.siemenssolar.com. For sales information, contact Ssi.sales@solar.siemens.com.

About Van Melle

Van Melle produces and markets confectionery products, including the brands Mentos, Fruit-tella, Meller and Airheads. Apart from production units in the Netherlands, Van Melle has production facilities and sales organizations in the United States, Brazil, Indonesia, China and Poland. Van Melle also has sales companies in a number of Western and Eastern European countries, in Asia, India and Russia. Van Melle's products are sold in over 100 countries.

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Editors notes:

- Slides and digital photos are available from the press contacts.
- Mentos, Fruit-tella, Meller and Airheads are all registered trademarks of Van Melle.